



**Julia Patterson**  
METROPOLITAN KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
District Thirteen

April 5, 2005

The Honorable Ron Sims  
King County Executive  
701 Fifth Ave.  
Suite 3210  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Executive Sims,

I am writing to express my strong support for any and all administrative actions you deem necessary to address certain staff issues that seem to continue to plague the Records, Election and Licensing Services Division.

I appreciate the expediency of your efforts to implement the bipartisan election reforms, which Councilmember Kathy Lambert and I developed with you, Dean Logan and Secretary of State Sam Reed. You have not hesitated to move forward on making improvements to the Elections Division. I fear that if appropriate action is not taken to address potential staffing issues within the Division, our efforts to improve the elections process in King County will be further compromised.

The recent discovery of 93 additional uncounted absentee ballots and information received regarding eight empty absentee ballot envelopes that were sent to overseas voters, raise for me serious questions regarding the effectiveness of the immediate staff involved in these functions within the Elections Division. I am deeply troubled by reports that certain staff members may have been involved in multiple errors that have recently occurred within the Division.

I understand that you and Mr. Logan have directed that an internal investigation be completed to gather more information on this matter. As you may know, Councilmember Bob Ferguson and I have also called for an independent, outside audit of the Elections Division in order to provide additional information to the public and Councilmembers. If it is determined by any of these investigations that any staff members have willfully acted in a manner which has compromised our elections system, I strongly encourage you to take swift and appropriate action. Such activity by staff can have the effect of undermining our collective efforts to implement improvements to the Elections Division,

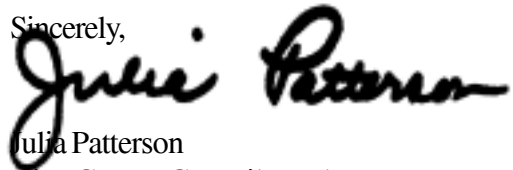


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challenges the publics' trust in the election process and can also undercut the quality of the work performed by the vast majority of Elections staff who are dedicated to upholding professional election standards and the publics' interest.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Patterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Julie" being more prominent than the last name "Patterson".

Julia Patterson  
King County Councilmember

Cc: Dean Logan, Director, Records, Elections and Licensing Services  
Kurt Triplett, Chief of Staff to King County Executive  
Scott White, Chief of Staff, King County Council  
Ryan Bayne, Director of Council Relations, King County Executive